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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/562,273	12/22/2005	James R. Burfiend	US030196	6573
24737 7590 09/11/2008 PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS P.O. BOX 3001 BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510				
EXAMINER				
STEPHENS III, JOSE S				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3728				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
09/11/2008		PAPER		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/562,273

**Applicant(s)**

BURFIEND ET AL.

**Examiner**

JOSE S. STEPHENS III

**Art Unit**

3728

**Period for Reply** -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 December 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 December 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-850)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/22/2005

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Beer (US Patent 4,913,561).

Regarding claims 1, 2, 6, and 9, and the intended use of the claimed invention "for a fluid, for use with a personal hygiene device", it has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim. *Ex parte Masham*, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (1987).

With respect to claim 1, figure 1 and 2 of Beer teaches a flexible container 20 for a fluid, for use with a personal hygiene device, comprising a flexible bag having a front panel portion 26, a rear panel portion 28, and further having a gusset (30 and 32) along at least one longitudinal side thereof which connects the front and rear panel portions and allows the front and rear panel portions to expand away from each other when the bag is filled, wherein the bag has a top edge 22 which is sealed to a spout element 38 to permit exit of fluid from the bag.

With respect to claim 2, the flexible container of Beer is capable of holding a fluid for a toothbrush.

With respect to claim 3, figure 2 of Beer teaches the flexible bag includes gussets (30 and 32) along both longitudinal sides.

With respect to claim 4, figures 1 and 2 of Beer teaches the bag is approximately rectangular in configuration and includes two sealed wing portions (40 and 42) on either side of the spout element, the wing portions extending above a remainder of the bag, alongside the spout element, wherein the sealing of the wing portions is arranged such that the gussets can expand fully below the wing portions.

With respect to claim 5, figures 1 and 2 of Beer teach the wing portions terminate approximately in the plane of a top edge of the spout element.

With respect to claim 6, figures 1 and 2 of Beer teaches a flexible container 20 for a fluid, for use with a personal hygiene device, comprising a flexible bag having a front panel portion 26 and a rear panel portion 28 and sealed along a bottom edge 24 thereof., wherein the bag includes two sealed wing portions (40 and 42) on either side of a central portion at a top end 22 thereof., wherein the wing portions extend above a remainder of the bag, permitting the remainder of the bag to fill completely.

With respect to claim 7, figures 1 and 2 of Beer teach the central portion includes a spout element 30 for exit of fluid in the container.

With respect to claim 8, the wing portions terminate approximately in the plane of a top edge of the spout element.

With respect to claim 9, the flexible container of Beer is capable of holding a fluid for a toothbrush.

### ***Conclusion***

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Shown are flexible containers analogous to applicant's instant invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JOSE S. STEPHENS III whose telephone number is 571-270-3797. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mickey Yu can be reached on 571-272-4562. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/JILA M MOHANDESI/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3728

JSS  
September 10, 2008